

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/993,678

REMARKS

Upon entry of the amendment, claim 3 is the only claim pending in the application.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 have been canceled.

Claim 3 is amended to be rewritten in independent form. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,116,881 ("Park"), in view of U.S. Patent 4,990,562 ("Chou") or in view of U.S. Application US 2001/0041236 A1 ("Usui").

In response, Applicants have deleted 1, 2 and 4 and have amended claim 3 to be written in independent form. Further Applicants submit herewith, a certified English translation of the priority document claiming a priority date of November 30, 2000.

It is recognized in the Action that the feature of claim 3 is not taught expressly by Park. In particular, Park does not disclose incorporating a non-foamed long-chain branched polyolefin layer in a foamed polyolefin sheet. Chou also does not disclose this recitation. No evidence relevant to this recitation is provided other than in Usui.

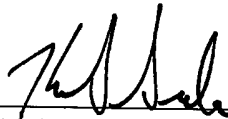
However, because Applicants' priority date is before that of Usui, Usui does not qualify as prior art, and Applicants' invention is not obvious in view of the remaining prior art. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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